

**What I claim is:**

1. A sheet of material having an admicellar hydrophobic polymer coating on at least one surface thereof, prepared by the process comprising the steps of:

- providing a sheet of material having a first surface and a second surface, wherein the sheet of material consists of natural and sythetic fibers;
- providing an aqueous hydrophobic coating composition containing a surfactant and a monomer of a hydrophobic polymer;
- providing an initiator;
- coating at least one of the first and second surfaces of the sheet of material with the aqueous hydrophobic coating composition;
- introducing the initiator into the hydrophobic coating composition disposed on at least one of the first and second surfaces of the sheet of material; and
- initiating an admicellar polymerization reaction on at least one of the first and second surfaces of the sheet of material coated with the aqueous hydrophobic coating composition for a predetermined period of time such that a hydrophobic polymer coating forms on at least one of the first and second surfaces of the sheet of material.

2. The sheet of material of claim 1, wherein the sheet of material is selected from the group consisting of cloth, burlap, polyesters, paper, cardboard and combinations thereof.

3. The sheet of material of claim 1, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sodium dodecyl sulfate, linear alkyl benzene sulfonate, and combinations thereof.
4. The sheet of material of claim 1, wherein the monomer of a hydrophobic polymer is styrene.
5. The sheet of material of claim 1, wherein the initiator is sodium persulfate.
6. The sheet of material of claim 1, wherein the initiator is AIBN.
7. The sheet of material of claim 1, wherein the sheet of material having the hydrophobic coating composition disposed on at least one of the first and second surface and the initiator introduced thereon is heated to a temperature of from about 60 degrees Celsius to about 100 degrees Celsius for a predetermined time of from about 30 minutes to about 180 minutes.
8. The sheet of material of claim 7, wherein the sheet of material having the hydrophobic coating composition disposed on at least one of the first and second surface and the initiator introduced thereon is heated to a temperature of 80 degrees Celsius for a predetermined time of 60 minutes.